

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 03676 032204Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03
PA-01 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /045 W
-----085316 032212Z /21
P 032146Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1111

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3676

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, HO
SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN MELGAR GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) STATE 192117, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3626, (C) TEGUCIGALPA 3597

1. SPECULATION CONCERNING GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES CONTINUES TO BE WIDESPREAD. AMONG THE POLITICALLY ACTIVE PUBLIC A GOVERNMENT RE-SHUFFLE SEEMS TO BE TAKEN INCREASINGLY FOR GRANTED. THE POSSIBILITY THAT GENERAL MELGAR ALSO MIGHT BE LEAVING HAS BEEN REFERRED TO IN PRINT ONCE (REF C) BUT MANY OF THE OTHER POTENTIAL CHANGES MENTIONED BY BATRES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE PRESS. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT MELGAR WILL LEAVE.

2. THE ATMOSPHERE SEEM TO HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED. MISSION SOURCES INDICATE THAT A DELAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER IN THE ARMED FORCES' PROPOSED CHANGES HAS BEEN AGREED UPON, DECREASING THE CHANCES FOR HASTY ACTION. IN THIS SITUATION, I BELIEVE THE PRIMARY UNITED STATES INTERESTS TO BE TO ASSURE THE ELECTORAL SCHEDULE IS NOT DERAILED AND THAT ANY CHANGES DO NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION.

3. WE HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS EXPRESSED THE USG'S INTEREST AND SATISFACTION THAT HONDURAS HAS BEGUN THE STEPS NECESSARY TO
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 03676 032204Z

RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. OUR CONCERN SHOULD THIS SCHEDULED RETURN NOT TAKE PLACE IS UNDERSTOOD BY ALL, INCLUDING KEY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. MISSION OFFICERS WILL FIND OCCASION IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH KEY PERSONALITIES TO RE-ITERATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. WE WILL REPORT ON SUCH CONVERSATIONS. I ALSO INTEND TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IN MY PUBLIC STATEMENTS. AN EARLY OPPORTUN-

ITY WILL ARISE NEXT WEEK AT AN AID CEREMONY, AND I WILL REPORT
MY WORDS AS WELL AS PRESS COVERAGE.
JARAMILLO

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NNN

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